



Date: March 20, 2012

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin Williams, Public Works Director
Subject: Agenda Item - "Rain Catchers" Contract with N.C. State University for Downspout Disconnection

Executive Summary

The City of Durham is contracting with N.C. State University through the Water Resources Research Institute to implement a portion of the Rain Catchers grant project. N.C. State University will install and measure downspout disconnections, fabricate flow monitoring equipment, and provide a graduate student to assist with the project. The pollution removal credit methods determined from this project will be applied throughout the city for downspout disconnections.

Recommendation

The administration recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with N.C. State University for the installation and monitoring of downspout disconnection projects for an amount not to exceed \$83,554.00.

Background

The City was awarded a Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) grant for the Rain Catchers Low Impact Development (LID) Retrofit project in 2011. Rain Catchers will help restore the headwaters of South Ellerbe Creek, a tributary of Ellerbe Creek and Falls Lake. This area includes much of Ninth Street and the surrounding residential areas (e.g., Old West Durham). The project will apply multiple practices to residential development and assess the relative acceptance by homeowners of each practice within an economically diverse area. The project will employ five residential practices: rain gardens, cisterns, trees, native plantings, and downspout disconnections. The City Council approved the Rain Catchers grant project on 12/5/2011.

Downspout disconnections, one of the practices that will be available, will be implemented and studied by N.C. State University. This mutually beneficial partnership will assist the City with the development of pollutant reduction credits. N.C. State University will also assist Stormwater Services staff with storm system flow monitoring by fabricating and installing equipment.

Alternatives

The alternative is to deny authorization to negotiate and execute the intergovernmental agreement to disconnect downspouts and perform monitoring. This would require re-negotiating the grant with the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and potentially reducing the amount of the grant. Additionally, no data would be obtained to determine eligible credit from NC Division of Water Quality for pollutant removal.

Financial Impact

The City of Durham will pay N.C. State \$83,554.00 from the Public Works Stormwater Capital Improvement Plan project budget (Organization code 4300L060 Object code 728600 Project code LCW12). The grant project ordinance is #14209.

SDBE Summary

Not applicable.